


Memo

To: Board of Managers
From: Michael Younes, Director of Municipal Operations 
CC: Shana Davis-Cook, Village Manager
Date: 5/12/2011
Re: Chevy Chase Open Space Committee

As a result of the announcement for volunteers included the *Village Crier* and posted on the website the following residents have volunteered to serve on the Chevy Chase Open Space Committee:

- Nina Bang-Jensen of Oliver Street
- Susie Eig of West Kirke Street
- Diana Kartalia of Grove Street
- Bliss Ryan of Grove Street
- Meredith Wellington of West Lenox Street
- Jay Treadwell of Grove Street

CHEVY CHASE
VILLAGE
ESTABLISHED 1890

Chevy Chase Open Space Urban Park Update

Last summer, the Village made its final payment toward the acquisition of the Chevy Chase Open Space property located at the far southwest corner of the Village between Grove Street and Western Avenue. This was yet another step in a process that began over 11 years ago when then Chevy Chase Village Board Member Susie Eig (of West Kirke Street) identified this property as a critical open space within the County. Ms. Eig, who at the time also sat on the Legacy Open (LOS) Board, recommended to her fellow LOS Board members that the property should be included in the LOS Master Plan for acquisition as an urban open space. LOS funds are designated for the acquisition of properties within the County, which are then developed and maintained as open spaces for the public's use.

This 1.9-acre property is owned by Montgomery County and managed by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Montgomery Parks staff. The Village is a financial partner with Montgomery County due to our contribution toward the purchase of the property. M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks staff are moving forward actively with studying Chevy Chase Open Space and implementing an initial site cleanup to improve the safety and usefulness of the site as public parkland. A Tree and Shrub Survey of the site has just been completed (please see the site plan, located on the reverse; a more complete version is available on the Village's website) with the help of Parks arborists and horticulture specialists from Brookside Gardens (located in Wheaton). That survey has identified several trees and shrubs that will need to be removed this spring to meet several goals:

- improve visibility and safety in the park
- remove undesirable and invasive plant species per M-NCPPC Parks policy
- remove dead, dying and hazardous trees and tree limbs

You may see Parks staff and contractors on the site during the coming months implementing these cleanup plans. Please be assured that only the minimum vegetation necessary to meet the above goals and are working to improve visibility and safety in the Park will be removed.

Once this initial site cleanup is completed, Montgomery Parks staff and the community will have a much better picture of the healthy vegetation that we have to work with as we develop a long-term Concept Plan and an interim improvement and planting plan for the park. The existing vegetative structure of the Park will be a great asset as we work collaboratively on a vision for this urban park. Please keep your eyes open for notice of an initial public workshop in early summer for a chance to voice your input on the vision for Chevy Chase Open Space.

This yet unscheduled initial meeting will be the first step in a community-wide process to develop the eventual Master Plan. At the Village Board's regular meeting on April 11, Legacy Open Space Program Manager Brenda Sandberg requested that the Village establish a small committee of citizens to serve as a liaison between the Village and the Commission as we work through this Concept Plan process and beyond. Other municipalities have established such committees when partnering with M-NCPPC on parks in their jurisdictions and they have been very helpful in streamlining the collaboration process. Included in this 5-person Committee will be Village staff liaison Michael Younes. If you are interested in serving on this Committee, please contact Mr. Younes by Friday, May 13 at michael.younes@montgomerycountymd.gov or (301) 654-7300.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Brenda Sandberg, Legacy Open Space Program Manager, Montgomery Parks, at brenda.sandberg@montgomeryparks.org or 301-650-4360. For more information, please visit the Village's website at www.chevychasevillagemd.gov, and click on the "Chevy Chase Open Space" *Quick Link*.